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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable PAUL COVERDELL, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, there is no greater joy than to be Your friend. Along with Abraham and Moses, and men and women throughout the ages, we accept the awesome privilege of a friendship with You. To be called a friend of God is a source of strength and courage. When this assurance pervades our minds, hearts, and wills, we can pray for Your guidance and know that You will not only show us the way, but walk with us.

Thank You for helping us be the kind of friends to others that You have been to us. May we express Your loyalty, faithfulness, and consistency. We are thankful for the lasting friendships established and deepened over the years here in the Senate. These friendships weather the storms of conflict, party differences, and political tensions.

Today, on behalf of both parties, I express our gratitude to You, Father, for our friend, BOB DOLE. Thank You for his commitment to You expressed so faithfully in his leadership and service here in the Senate. He leaves the Senate this afternoon, but You know he can never leave the place he holds in our hearts. Bless him with the knowledge of Your love and our esteem. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 1996.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL COVERDELL, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COVERDELL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, the Senator from Kansas.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business this morning from 9 o'clock until 10 o'clock. I ask unanimous consent that from 9:45 a.m. until 10 o'clock, I might have that 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. From 10 o'clock to 12 noon, the time will be under the control, I think, of Senator NICKLES. At 12 o'clock or thereabouts, I will make a brief statement. Then there will be recess until 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons. At 2:15, the Senate will swear in SHEILA FRAHM, as a U.S. Senator, as my successor.

Following the swearing in, it is my understanding we will begin debate on the budget resolution, the conference report, 10 hours, and votes, therefore, are possible on the budget resolution conference report or any other items that may be cleared for action.

We are still trying to break the logjam on nominations. I am not certain

we can get that done before noon today. I know we have cleared some nominations. We will take those up, hopefully, between 9:15 and 10 o'clock. I repeat what I have said many times: I do not like holding nominations and have not made it a practice personally. Hopefully, those who have the problems can work them out either today or after I am gone, because there are many families here trying to make plans. Holding up their nominations makes it difficult.

Of course, personally, I am still hopeful we can clear the World Trade Organization legislation. At one time it was cleared in the U.S. Senate. All it does is to give Congress a role in the event there are arbitrary decisions made by faceless, nameless bureaucrats in Geneva where we can exit from the World Trade Organization. It seems to me it is something we would want to do. It is supported by the President, supported by Mickey Kantor, the former U.S. Trade Representative. In fact, it was part of an agreement when I agreed to support it, standing with the President on the White House lawn—the GATT agreement which was part of that agreement. I hope the administration would be helpful.

As I understand, all the holds are on the other side of the aisle. I would like to complete action on that before noon today. If it is not possible, it is not possible. Senator DASCHLE had indicated on Thursday he would be pleased to help. I am certain he will over the next few hours. If anybody has any problems with that legislation, I think if they understood it—and it is not very complicated—it simply says that Congress should have a role, too.

There is a great deal of concern by people all over America who may have lost their jobs to foreign competition—at least they believe they have lost their jobs to foreign competition—they are concerned about all these, whether it is GATT or NAFTA, all

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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these trade agreements where we are exporting jobs. This gives Congress the responsibility and a role in determining whether or not we should withdraw from the World Trade Organization.

In my view, it is legislation that should have been passed sometime ago. I understand it is acceptable to the House if we can free it from the Senate. Senator BYRD has had an interest in it. He has improved it some. He has an amendment, I think, that strengthens it more. It is not a partisan issue. I hope we can clear it this morning. If not, I know sometimes things do not work in this place.

I also thank Chaplain Ogilvie for his thoughts and his prayers.

Between now and 9:45, I assume the time will be equally divided.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair advises the majority leader there is a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak not to exceed 5 minutes.

GODSPEED TO SENATOR DOLE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I rise to join all of those in the Senate today to wish Godspeed to our distinguished majority leader and colleague, BOB DOLE, as he departs the Senate and embarks upon his campaign for the Presidency of the United States. I do not know of any other event that is more important to all of us or to the country this year than his election as President. I am really glad in one sense to see him concentrate his full energies and attention on that objective.

When I think about BOB DOLE's leaving the Senate, I think about when I came to the Senate he was already established as one of the true legislative leaders of the Senate, although he occupied no elected position of leadership in the Senate. It was my good fortune to serve on two committees with him as a freshman Member of this body—the Agriculture Committee and the Judiciary Committee. He was not intending to serve on the Judiciary Committee that year either, but he was drafted to serve. We did not have enough Members to fill out the ranks on the Republican side. Senator KENNEDY from Massachusetts just assumed the chairmanship of that committee. It was a very highly visible committee.

I recall Senator DOLE coming on the committee. Of course, he had been a lawyer, a county attorney in Kansas. He brought to that committee good judgment and experience on a number of issues. I can recall what I would think would be referred to as an obscure bill that year that the committee worked on, which was bankruptcy reform. After a lot of hearings, a lot of effort to resolve issues and to get a bill reported out, it was Senator DOLE who, when it appeared there was not going to be any action on that issue, came up with a proposal that turned out to be the centerpiece of bankruptcy reform.

It was that way on the Agriculture Committee. We would be locked in tough debate, arguments, differences of views based on regional considerations, sometimes party differences. The chairman from Georgia, Senator Talmadge, was trying to get everybody together. Time after time after time it was BOB DOLE who ended up being the force and the catalyst that brought the committee to a point where it agreed and reported out legislation. That legislation would ultimately become law.

Senator DOLE, as a member of the Finance Committee—I did not have the good fortune to be a member there—but as chairman of that committee, I can recall his handling legislation on the floor of the Senate into the late hours of the evening with the patience and the calm determination to see the bill through, dealing with the competing interests, the offering of amendments, Democrats and Republicans alike, getting a fair hearing on their proposals of what should be in the bill and what should not be in the bill. And finally, after sometimes days, bringing that bill to a point where it would pass the Senate and then ultimately be enacted into law.

A legislative leader, in the truest sense of the word, on a wide range of issues, some issues that other Senators did not want to work on, like in the Agriculture Committee, the nutrition issues, working out the difficulties in determining eligibility for food stamps, for School Lunch Program participation, how much would the Federal Government contribute, how much would State and local governments contribute, how much would individuals have to pay for these benefits, and on and on, the minutia, the tough, hard decisions. He was there to help make those decisions and to help shape a consensus of support for legislation on those issues when others could not do it, did not bring the skill and the determination and the capacity to do it that BOB DOLE brought to the challenge.

It was no wonder, when Howard Baker left the Senate in 1984, following the elections that year, the Senate turned to Bob DOLE and elected him leader. He has proven himself over and over again to be a confident, fair, courageous, decisive leader, driven by character, integrity, and the notion of what is good for the public interest, not just what is good for the party interest or partisan consideration, but the general interests that serve the people of our great country. It is with that kind of leadership that we have come to appreciate the genius of BOB DOLE and the outstanding way in which he has discharged the responsibilities of leader.

We are going to have a tough job. I know that some people are talking about the succession, and who is going to replace BOB DOLE. The fact is that nobody is going to replace BOB DOLE. Nobody has the capacity to do all the things that he has done in the U.S. Senate. It has really been an honor—a

great honor—and a wonderful opportunity to have had the privilege of serving on some of the committees he has served on, some he has chaired, and to be a part of this Senate that has been led by BOB DOLE, the Senator from Kansas.

So we wish him all the best and know that he will enjoy many more successes and many more triumphs in the years ahead. We are confident of that, and we bid him a fond farewell.

Mr. KYL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to join the Senator from Mississippi in paying tribute to the Senator from Kansas, the distinguished majority leader. All of us who have served in this body can tell stories—even those of us who have served a very short period of time, such as myself—that reflect the qualities of BOB DOLE's leadership. Those of us who are partisan Republicans can only hope that a majority of American citizens can get to know BOB DOLE as well as we know him. If they do, then those of us who would like to see BOB DOLE be President know that the American people would choose wisely in that case. We recognize our partisanship in this matter, but I think even those who are on the other side of the aisle would acknowledge that the majority leader is a man of great character, judgment, and leadership skills that, frankly, are greater than most public servants who have the opportunity to represent people in this country.

So I join with my colleague from Mississippi in paying tribute to the majority leader, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

A 15-PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD TAX CUT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I want to speak for a few minutes this morning about a recommendation that has been made to the distinguished majority leader by a group of economists. I am talking about the proposal to cut income tax rates by 15 percent across-the-board. I know that some people will criticize this as political, but, frankly, in a representative democracy, the whole idea is to do things that the people want. I submit that if the people respond positively to this idea, clearly, it will have been the right thing to do. I believe people will respond positively because they have been asking for tax relief.

The point of an across-the-board cut in tax rates is that it helps to stimulate the economy. Therefore, it is the most productive in terms of providing for economic growth, which helps all people.

This is the kind of rate cut that produced more revenues to the Treasury under the administrations of John F.